



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Eastern District of Wisconsin*

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June 10, 2004

NEWS SUMMARY: Jury Finds Unlicensed Gun Dealer Guilty

Steven M. Biskupic, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Wisconsin, announced today that STEVEN W. VAN BELLINGER (DOB: 8/14/46), from Crivitz, Wisconsin was found guilty on a two-count indictment by a federal jury in Green Bay on June 9, 2004.

After a three day jury trial, Van Bellinger was convicted for possession of a machine gun, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 922 (o) and 924 (a)(2). The jury also found Van Bellinger guilty of dealing in firearms without a license, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 922 (a)(1)(A) and 924 (a)(1)(D). Between 1992 and May, 21, 2003, Van Bellinger repeatedly attended gun shows across the State of Wisconsin, and illegally sold approximately 200 firearms at the gun shows without a required Federal Firearms License. In addition of the criminal charges, the United States will seek to forfeit more than 60 firearms seized during a search warrant at Van Bellinger's residence in Crivitz.

Daniel Jones Resident Agent in Charge of the Milwaukee Office of the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives stated, "This is an important message to those who are engaging in the business of selling firearms without a license. Violators will be aggressively pursued and ultimately prosecuted in federal court."

This case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys William Roach and Timothy Funnell.

Based on the charges, Van Bellinger faces up to 15 years in prison and fines totaling up to \$500,000. District Judge William C. Griesbach has not set a sentencing date.

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